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our children should receive and their conception of the teacher is wrong. I wish the Hon. Minister for Education were present here. Unless the Government assure that the whole question will be reviewed and that it will not be confined to a Cabinet Sub-Committee's report but that a fresh approach will be made and the whole thing will be considered anew and that as far as possible they would do their best before the schools re-open especially with regard to teachers and other services, I must press my resolution. I know this is not going to be carried and we will be defeated. I press this resolution not in a spirit of triumph. I must satisfy my conscience whether in all fairness I have put forth their case so that at least my conscience is free and I may have the feeling that I have not let down people who deserve better."

* DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—
"After the powerful appeal of the hon. Member, I would beg of him not to press the resolution. I think its very object will not be served by following that course. I feel that what he has said about the teacher is correct and the effect of it will be far greater if you give a chance for the Government to see what they are going to do."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—"I would also add my appeal to my hon. friend not to press the resolution. Every one has deep sympathy with the principle of the resolution and the object of the resolution will be defeated if pressed to a division."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"I hope, Sir, that the Hon. Minister for Finance will take up this matter in hand and have it examined in an impartial manner and see that justice is done to all classes of employees. There has been an increase of 133 per cent in the case of some and a bare 7½ per cent in the case of others. It is impossible for me to reconcile these variations. I wonder if the basic salary of those that got an enhancement of 133 per cent was so low. If he will give me an assurance that the whole thing will be examined and will not harp on what the previous Sub-Committee has done, I have no objection. As I said, I know the fate of this resolution."

* MR. PRESIDENT :—"That is far too much to expect of the Hon. Minister. I am sure he will give due consideration to this subject. I believe the hon. Member has the leave of the House so withdraw the resolution."

The resolution was by leave of the House withdrawn.

(2) MEASURES FOR THE UPLIFT OF THE SCHEDULED CASTES.

* SRI H. M. JAGANNATHAM :—"I beg to move—

'that this Council recommends to the Government that a committee be appointed to examine the adequacy of the existing measures for the uplift of the Scheduled castes

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and make recommendations to quicken the pace of progress so that the Scheduled castes may occupy an equal place with other sections of the community within a definite period of time.'

"The resolution is so simple and clearly worded that it is not necessary for me to make a speech by way of explaining its objects and I do not anticipate either a difference of opinion much less an objection from the members or from the treasury Benches to this very innocuous resolution."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I suppose the Hon. Sri Kurmayya is in charge of this subject. Has he any objection to the resolution as it stands."

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THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"Mr. President, all the points raised by the hon. Member in his resolution are going to be taken up by the Government in connexion with the uplift of Harijans and the scheme is awaiting the approval of the Hon. the Premier. In effect, the subject-matter of this resolution is already under the consideration of the Government and thus there is no necessity for the discussion at length of this resolution."

SRI H. M. JAGANNATHAM:—"There can be no two opinions on the need—the urgent need for implementing the ever so many promises and pledges that this and the previous Ministry and by the Hon. Minister for Harijan uplift, who, by his simplicity and sincerity had succeeded to find a place in that office whoever the Prime Minister.

"The resolution that I have just now moved seeks to do no more than help in the early implementation of the much needed and long neglected ameliorative measures to the eight million Harijans in this Province.

"It seeks, Mr. President, the appointment of a non-official committee of men and women consisting of members of my own community and others really interested in the upliftment of the depressed and oppressed people of my community to examine the adequacy or otherwise of the measures, if any, taken so far by the Government since they took up the administration eleven months back. The committee so appointed would no doubt make suitable and appropriate recommendations as to the method and manner in which the uplift measures ought to be given effect to.

"I need not take up the time of the House in enumerating the grievances and hardships of my community. They are so well known and so much discussed by hon. Members on all sides of the House on more than one occasion. On the Temple Entry Bill, on the Removal of Civil Disabilities Bill, on the question of admission to Secular Institutions, on the question of prohibition on the floor of not only this House and the Lower House but on all public platforms men of all shades of political creed, have spoken a great deal about the depth to which my community had sunk. I shall not here, Mr. President, seek to go into the causes, that had kept us so low nor shall I proceed to apportion blame on this or that community. This is not the occasion which would allow of such diversion.

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" I am nevertheless one of those who sincerely believe that politics had had considerable share in keeping us down so far. Politics had to a great extent dictated to interested parties the desirability of keeping us economically, socially and educationally backward.

" I also have come to realize, I must admit, that there is a growing anxiety on the part of those who to-day are on the Government Benches to expiate for the past wrongs and to help the Harijans to come up from the degrading depths to which they have been allowed to sink.

" I know, Mr. President, that the Hon. Sri V. Kurmayya himself, a Harijan, is anxious to do his best for the communities which he represents in the House. But, I regret to say, that I also know that in spite of his very good intentions and perhaps those of his colleagues, the pace in which this matter is progressing does not convince us, of the efficiency with which the machinery is working.

" You know, Mr. President, and so do hon. Members, that a crore of rupees was set apart for Harijan uplift last year. Again a similar amount is provided this year. But no one knows what steps have been taken. What plans have been chalked out, what schemes worked out for the effective amelioration of the Harijans in this Province? No one knows how much of the allotted amount had been spent and in what manner, and on what measures.

" Mr. President, Sir, coming as I do from a community long neglected and much ill-treated, I am naturally impatient and critical of the somewhat leisurely manner with which this very urgent matter is being handled. I do not accuse any one of want of heart. But I must lay the charge that the Government machinery moves disgustingly very slow. The Hon. Minister Sri Kurmayya ought to be more concerned with the speed with which the measures are given effect to. He must try to understand the psychology of a section of human beings who so long suffered through man-made social barriers, though the arrogance and social bigotry of a class of men, more educated and more wealthy and powerful. They except the Congress Government, naturally to right the wrongs, to fulfil their pledges and to make them the equal to everyone else in society. And eleven months have passed, with no perceptible or solid measures taken to spend the amount provided for the purpose. The longer it is delayed, the stronger will become the bitterness of the community. Schemes on paper, funds under budget heads alone cannot lead the community to a haven of peace and plenty. Throwing temples open can at best be only a gesture of good will and not the road that would lead the thousands of the community to an economic betterment of their lot.

" Sir, I must point out to this House that more than all the Bills which the Government have passed through, the most urgent and vital factor that is needed to be done is the economic emancipation of the community. Spiritual emancipation can afford to wait a little longer at least till we are able to get, a better wage, live in healthy surroundings and in decent houses, breathe the

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air as equals till our children got all facilities of lower and higher education, till our women and children have the necessary medical aid, till our young men have equal opportunities with others in all spheres of life, till we are no more looked down by our own countrymen. Mr. President, you will please forgive me for the warmth of my expressions. I am not trying to exaggerate facts, and you will agree with me that I am not.

"But in a matter like this, I cannot help urging on the Minister and his Colleagues, the urgency with which relief measures ought to be set up. My community is no doubt grateful to all, individuals and parties, for all they have done to help them. There had been many eminent men in our own Province like the late lamented Dr. Nair, who felt that unless untouchability was wiped out and the so-called untouchables brought up to a plane of equality with others, India did not deserve to be free and would not be worthy of it. He fought and championed our cause with a great fervour.

"Apart from whatever political differences I and my party may have with Mr. Gandhi, I must openly admit that it was due to his sincerity that removal of untouchability came to be included as a plank in the Congress programme."

MR. K. O. ANTHONI:—"What is your party?"

* SRI H. M. JAGANNATHAM:—"Scheduled Class Federation, Sir.

"Prior to Mr. Gandhi's advent, even Congressmen opposed even discussing the question in their meetings. I am sure that the millions of Scheduled Castes men would be grateful to Mahatma Gandhi for his glorious service.

"It is a sad story that though Mahatma Gandhi meant well with us, the Hindu society which must ultimately realize its faults had kept us down to Mahatma's sorrow and our bitterness.

"But march of events had vastly changed men's hearts though in our own Province there is need for a greater change of heart.

"As I said, Mr. President, economic emancipation ought to be the first duty of this Government and I must repeat that in spite of hopeful words and speeches nothing seems to have done so far. The pace is dead slow and to quicken it, I suggest the formation of a non-official committee immediately. There can be no objection to this request. I request the Hon. Minister not only to accept this resolution but see that something is done forthwith.

"Before I sit down, I would also request him to appoint senior Deputy Collectors of my community to the posts of Executive Officers for this work so that they may take a personal interest in the matter and help their own community men to get the benefits of a generous scheme."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Do you object to Collectors coming from community of the Hon. Minister?"

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* SRI H. M. JAGANNATHAM :—“ Once again I request the Minister and the House to unanimously accept my resolution.”

MR. K. O. ANTHONI :—“ Sir, I rise to second the resolution that has been moved by the Hon. Member, Sri H. M. Jagannatham. We had two pieces of legislation recently in the interests of the so-called depressed classes—one on the Removal of Civil Disabilities and the other on the Temple entry question. When those Bills were discussed, I, as one who had worked amongst the depressed classes for a considerably long period, felt that it was in the economic sphere that their salvation lay. Economic improvement of the depressed classes should precede all other reforms. The temple entry that has been made much of may be after all an empty thing if what we hear as happening in a neighbouring State is true. It is said that temples that are thrown open to Harijans there are now visited only by Harijans and not by the Caste Hindus. Anyway I am not to quarrel with that measure. Any measure that stands for the economic improvement of the masses, especially of the depressed classes, must be a measure that must enlist the support of people who are interested in social welfare. There is another aspect of the question which I would like to bring to the notice of this House. I have said in connection with the proposal to set apart one crore of rupees for Harijan uplift that it is not only the Hindu Harijans who should be entitled to that amount, who should be the beneficiaries of that scheme, but it should entitle all people who are economically poor and miserable. There is hostility particularly among the Harijan leaders themselves for including converts to Christianity to the benefits of this amount. I can understand the hostility from militant Hinduism, because they are afraid of Christianity making headway in this country. They are afraid on political grounds. But let me tell them that the fight that is gathering strength in this country is not between Hinduism and Christianity, is not between Hinduism and Islam, but it is between people who believe in God and people who do not believe in God. It is Communism, it is the ideological groups that have come into this country that are going to prove a menace to the society. Let my Hindu leaders take it that we are not out for power in this country. Indian Christians believe that they have got a mission to play and that they have got a mission to perform in this country. So, I say that any scheme that you devise for the economic improvement of the masses should be devised in such a way that it is not based on religion. If the allotment of one crore of rupees is made as a measure of expiation by the Caste Hindus for the sins they have committed to these depressed classes in the past that money must come from the caste Hindu pockets, and not from the public exchequer. I say that the Christians, converts from the depressed classes, should be as much entitled to this relief as the Hindu depressed classes. In connexion with the educational stipends that were granted, I understand that the Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan, in 1937–38, devised a formula by which converts to Christianity from Depressed classes were made entitled to some extent to this benefit. I hope that the Hon. Sri Kurmayya will bear that in mind and see that this is not treated on a religious basis, but on the economic basis.”

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* THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I have to oppose this resolution. My friends do not know that there are already advisory committees, attached to the Collectors as well as to the Commissioner of Labour, which are working for the uplift of Harijans. These non-official committees were started in 1939 by the late Congress Ministry under the leadership of Sri C. Rajagopalachari. These committees have been advising the Collectors and the Commissioner of Labour, who is responsible for the welfare of Harijans, in all measures that are taken up by the Government for the welfare of Harijans. Under the present rule, the Commissioner of Labour is attending to the ameliorative measures for the Harijans as mentioned below :—(1) Provision of house-sites. This is one of the things which is very badly needed in districts. The Harijans very badly require house-sites, and for this purpose there is a committee. The Collector is there to sanction or acquire the house-sites for Harijans.

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“ Sir, I must say in this connection one thing. The money provided each year in the budget is limited, and so the Collector and the labour officers are not able to cope with the demand that is made by Harijans in general. The Commissioner of Labour every year gets sufficient money according to the proposals sent by the Collectors and district labour officers. With this, house-sites are acquired on a limited scale. Besides, Government is running hostels to-day in addition to schools, grants of scholarship, Boarding Grants to Boarding Homes and grants for purchase of books, etc. Government to-day is running four hostels in the Presidency. They are in Masulipatam; in Madras, in Calicut and in Salem. These four hostels are run entirely by the Government of Madras. From 1938 all the hostels, run till then by the Harijan Sevak Sangh, are subsidised by this Government. You know, Sir, after 1932, when Mahatma Gandhi started Harijan Sevak Sangh in the whole of India with provincial branches, schools were started, free boarding homes and orphanages, where thousands of Harijans were fed, were started. Though these schools and hostels were started then, it was only in 1938, the first time the Congress Government subsidised those institutions. To-day hon. Members may not know how many Harijan students are fed by the Harijan Sevak Sangh. This Government have been in office since eleven months, and in addition to the amount budgeted in 1946-47, this Government have sanctioned nearly 2½ lakhs for both boarding and schools. Further the Government have sanctioned 100 scholarships to students studying in various colleges including Christian converts with retrospective effect. Mr. Jagannatham, as he belongs to the Federation, may criticise us and say, it is all on account of party politics it is all done. (Mr. H. M. Jagannatham : ‘ Certainly not.’) I know the criticism that is levelled against the Congress by Federationists.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ May I point out to the hon. Minister that the resolution says that the existing measures are not adequate and so the mover of the resolution wants a central committee should go into the question and examine whether existing measures are adequate or anything should be done to improve them.”

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* THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA :—“ I am explaining to hon. Members what are the things that are being done by the present Government so that they might judge for themselves whether a committee is necessary at all. Mr. Jagannatham has been working for the uplift of Harijans for several years, and he was there in the field long before I came in. You know the Labour Department was started in 1925, and from that time onwards every year the grant was enhanced either for building houses or for scholarship. It was started by the Justice Party and from 1937 it has been continued by the Congress Government. From 1936 onwards the amount spent on scholarships and schools and hostels have been annually increased. Of course it is high time to see that the housing condition of the Harijans should be improved. This Government are as equally anxious as Mr. Jagannatham, to uplift Harijans and to give them an equal status with that of the Caste-Hindus. This Government, with the help of this House and the other House, passed two Bills, in this behalf, the Temple Entry Bill and the Social Disabilities Removal Bill. The first Bill gives them a higher position to worship God on a par with other communities. I realize their economic position may not be raised by temple entry. But why are the Harijans to-day degraded in economic position. It is because of untouchability; it is because of the stigma that was there for centuries that they have not been able to rise to the position of independent living. That is why you see in the village to-day people who have come from the north are rich. A Harijan is not allowed to run a hotel to-day. Further I must explain to hon. Member that Harijans as a whole are agricultural labourers. Hence his position is different from that of ordinary labourers, whether they work in mills or in city. The improvement of the position of the agricultural labourer has to go with the improvement of the lot of the ryot. This Government, within the last eleven months, have framed several schemes to improve the conditions of the agriculturists. I do not know what is the purpose of constituting the committee proposed by the mover. Does he want to advise the Government to introduce socialism straightway in this country to improve the conditions of the agricultural labourers? It is only in that way the object can be achieved immediately. This Government is not prepared to take up that suggestion. The time may perhaps come after the next elections when adult franchise is given. I do not want to enter into that topic now. I will advise Mr. Jagannatham this thing; there are 31 members from this community in the Legislature. They can constitute a committee themselves and take up this question. I may tell him there are already district committees and the provincial committee working for the amelioration of Harijans advising Government in which direction the work should be done. So there is no need for a separate new committee to go into this question. The district committees and the provincial committee are working under the control of the Commissioner of Labour, who is wholly responsible for the uplift of Harijans. That Committee may be reconstituted under a Minister to advise Government. This is now under consideration; and very shortly the names of members of this committee will be announced.”

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MR. PRESIDENT :—“ That means you are thinking of constituting a committee.”

* THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA :—“ It has already been created in 1938. These committees have been functioning since that year. Every year, in the month of December or January, new members are being nominated to it.”

* DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—“ Is the Hon. Minister quite satisfied with the work of these committees? Will he tell us whether those committees in those areas have worked well for the elevation of the condition of these classes?”

* THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA :—“ I am not satisfied with the work carried on by them. I already explained to hon. Members that these committees are only advisory bodies without any power. Now the Government is seriously thinking to give power to them. I must also say the Collector in charge of this work as well as the District Labour Officers in charge of upliftment of Harijans are not able to serve the community adequately either because of want of power or otherwise. That is why this Government is considering to have District Labour Officers with a gazetted rank instead of deputy tahsildars.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I think the Hon. Minister said he is reconstituting the central committee.”

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA :—“ Yes, provincial as well as district committees.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ On a point of order, Sir, then why not Government accept this resolution?” (Laughter.)

* THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA :—“ This is not a new thing. There are already committees working in the district; also there is a provincial committee. Under the scheme under contemplation new spirit is to be infused in the new members of the committee to make them work properly for the upliftment of the Harijans. A new spirit and a missionary zeal are sought to be infused in members. Hitherto such a thing was absent. So I request the mover to withdraw his motion. He will be one of the members of the committee that is proposed. (Laughter.) With these words I oppose the resolution. (Interruption by Mr. H. M. Jagannatham.) I know you have been working for the community even from the time while I was a student in 1932-33. I know yourself and Mr. M. C. Rajah were in the field at the time; and I have often come to you for advice. In view of these things I request my friend to withdraw his resolution.”

6 p.m.

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ What the Hon. Minister means is there is already a committee which is going to be reconstituted and there is going to be new blood and enthusiasm. I think that is the object of the resolution. I therefore request Mr. Jagannatham not to jeopardise his chances of being on the Committee by pressing the resolution to vote.”

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* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ Sir, I had no intention of intervening in the debate. I am sorry the Hon. Minister did not take the clue you gave him more than once and what the hon. Member, Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar, told him. We are not at all blaming him for not doing anything. The Labour Department has been in existence for some years. We want to review the work of that department so that a programme of work may be laid down which the committees he proposes to set up may see it is carried out.

“ Sir, I have been a member of the Provincial Advisory Board since it was instituted. I feel, Sir, such an examination is absolutely necessary. I will give only one instance. Time after time, the Provincial Board sends up proposals for increase in the number of scholarships and boarding grants. The Commissioner of Labour takes particular care to verify facts and figures. If he sends up proposals for 300 scholarships, the order will come for 50 or 100. I brought to the notice of the Hon. Minister by means of an interpellation that there should be a progressive increase in the number of scholarships and boarding grants irrespective of the financial position of the province. This expenditure should be the first charge on the revenues of the province as expenditure on Anglo-Indian education is a first charge on the revenues. Let the Hon. Minister appoint whomsoever he likes. Let a small committee be set up to examine the progress that has been made. Take the case of assignment of land. How much of land assigned has been cultivated by the members of the depressed classes? What are the difficulties? The late Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah moved a resolution in the old Council suggesting that certain measures should be taken. No measures have been taken. It is said that if any land is not brought under cultivation it would be resumed. That is all the help that is got from the department. While we all heartily sympathise and like to assist the Hon. Minister as you suggested, this Committee will sit and examine what has been done and on what lines the future work should be done. If the Hon. Minister wants to sit in judgment over the committee, he may consult any committee he likes. But I suggest that a committee of 31 members will never be able to go into things and arrive at any decision. By all means let the Hon. Minister have any standing advisory committee he likes. But this examination should be done by a few people getting the statistics and examining the question closely. He himself will be surprised at the slow progress made.

“ The Provincial Advisory Board has not been functioning for the past one year. Why did not the Hon. Minister reconstitute it? He was a Member of the Government all the time. There was some hitch among themselves and the Board has not been reconstituted and it has not been functioning for the past one year. I got an invitation to serve and I accepted it, but no meeting has been held. All these things will be stopped if a programme is laid down and the Hon. the Minister and the Cabinet make depressed classes education and their economic uplift a first charge on the revenues of the province. Otherwise

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Sir, the members of the Scheduled Castes Federation would be perfectly justified in asking that as in the case of Anglo-Indians a certain amount should be set apart for them in any new constitution that may be passed so that their interests do not suffer and they are not made the playthings of party politics. Sir, we all want to assist the Hon. Minister. Sri Jagannatham is not opposed to him and he wants to assist him. I wish he accepts the resolution. After all the purpose is the same"

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I suppose we all understand each other very well. The Hon. Minister is as jealous of the interests of his community as the hon. Member, Sri Jagannatham, or as anybody else. He is as jealous of maintaining his credit for taking all necessary ameliorative measures for the depressed classes. The House will have no objection to give him credit and let him constitute the committee as he pleases. I suppose the hon. Member Sri Jagannatham, is withdrawing his resolution."

SRI H. M. JAGANNATHAM:—"No, Sir, I want it to be put to vote."

* THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"Mr. President, Sir, I have already replied to the points raised by Mr. Jagannatham. Now the hon. Member, Sri Suryanarayana Rao, has raised some other points. I am aware, Sir, that the Provincial Advisory Committee attached to the Commissioner of Labour has not done much. That is why I have been thinking of having a committee under a Minister and not the Commissioner of Labour. The hon. Member said that certain proposals sent up by the Commissioner of Labour for increased grants were held up. There was a rule made by the Advisers' Government that in any year, in regard to the proposals sent up by the Commissioner of Labour only one-third should be sanctioned. If the Commissioner asked for Rs. 100, only Rs. 33 should be sanctioned. This year after Congress assumed office, we have broken that rule. We have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs for the uplift of the eligible communities. The amount provided for scholarships did not ordinarily exceed Rs. 25,000, but this year we have sanctioned Rs. 33,000 with retrospective effect. It has been laid down that there should be no rule fixing the amount to be allotted under Part II schemes for the next year. I know, Sir, the Provincial Advisory Board attached to the Commissioner of Labour has not got power to do much to the communities, but its function is only to advise the Commissioner."

DR. V. K. JOHN:—"On a point of order, Mr. President. We are not concerned with the working of this Board or with what the Hon. Minister has been doing or will be doing. The Hon. Minister is simply side-tracking the resolution."

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"I have to reply to the points raised by the hon. Member."

* DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"The question for consideration is whether a special committee will be appointed for the purpose and whether the Minister thinks that the Provincial Board which is going to be reconstituted will do

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the work. My hon. Friend, Sri Jagannatham, wants a special committee for a specific purpose and for a limited period. Is the Hon. Minister opposed to it? Nobody questions what has been done in the past. The resolution is limited to this point: whether a special committee can be appointed for a limited purpose for a limited period. Is the Hon. Minister prepared to accept it or not? That is the question."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I think the Hon. Minister was endeavouring to point out to hon. Members that no special committee was necessary because there was already a Provincial Board which was going to be reconstituted with new Members—fresh blood and enthusiasm. He said that that Committee would do all that was necessary and all that was contemplated by the resolution. That was what I thought the Hon. Minister impressed upon the House. If that is so, the Hon. Minister can make a statement and satisfy the House."

MR. K. O. ANTHONI:—"The resolution before the House asks for a Committee to be appointed to examine the adequacy of the existing measures. It contemplates an altogether different committee for a different purpose."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I do not know what the hon. Member wants. Does he want the Hon. Minister to say, 'No' and have the resolution put to vote and defeated?"

* THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"Since there are 30 M.L.As. and some M.L.Cs. there is no necessity of appointing a special committee. I oppose the resolution. As regards the points raised by Mr. Suryanarayana Rao, the Committee that is going to be renominated will certainly look after the interests of Harijans. All the M.L.As. are *ex-officio* members in the District Committees. The presidents and secretaries of the Harijan Sevak Sangh are also members of the District Committees. We have passed an order in 1938 that all the Harijan M.L.As. of the district and the Secretary or President of the Harijan Sevak Sangh should be *ex-officio* members of these committees. That was how the real Harijan problem was tackled in this Presidency. There is a rule that the Secretary or President of the Harijan Sevak Sangh which is a non-political body should be a member of that committee. We constituted these committees in 1938. But then the Congress Government resigned and members went to jails and these committees were not working properly. I assure the hon. Members of this House that these committees will hereafter look after the welfare of the Harijans. On account of our absence from the Legislative Assembly and the Council and the Government, this work was neglected. But this year there has been increased work done. The Government have also set apart one crore of rupees for the uplift of Harijans. My hon. Friend, Mr. Jagannatham said that he did not know the plans and the schemes intended for the expenditure of one crore of rupees. It is not an easy thing to spend one crore of rupees in six months or ten months. This is a Government. If this is a zamindari, or if I were a zamindar, I would be able to spend a crore of rupees in three days! But to spend a crore of rupees of tax-payers' money, a proper and useful scheme should be prepared."

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MR. PRESIDENT :—" I know the Government can spend it in a minute."

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA :—" The Government cannot spend it in a minute. Schemes have to be drafted and they have to be examined and approved by the heads of departments and by the Secretariat and they have to be approved by the Cabinet."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I request the Hon. Minister to finish soon, say, by 6-15 p.m."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" May I ask, Sir, whether it is all relevant? "

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA :—" Whether it is relevant or not, I have to reply to the points raised. One hon. Member said that this one crore of rupees should also be spent for the uplift of the Christians also. Sir, not a pie of this money should be spent for Christians. I know the Christians must get something set apart for the Christian community, but the money set apart for Harijan uplift should not be spent for any other community. If it is done like that, it would amount to misappropriation. This question was raised long ago and answered on the floor of the House by me and by the ex-Prime Minister that this money is purely meant for Harijan uplift. I will give you one example."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Relevancy is a rule which ought to apply to the Hon. Minister also. I do not know why the Hon. Minister should go on speaking about these things."

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA :—" These are quite relevant, Sir, because the hon. Member, Mr. Anthoni, raised the point . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" May I request the Hon. Minister to finish soon. His time is up."

6-15 p.m. THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA :—" The Justice Party Government set apart lands for depressed classes, but they were not given really to them. All the lands set apart for Harijans were taken away by the Hindu Harijans whom the Christian missionaries converted to their fold. Not only lands but even appointments set apart for Harijans were taken away by Christians in the name of Harijan Christians. As a Minister representing the Harijans, I will not allow such a thing in future. If there are no Harijans for whose uplift the money can be spent, let it be divided among all communities. I have no objection to giving to Christians, but let the amounts set apart for the Christians and the Harijans be separate. I oppose the resolution moved by Mr. Jagannatham."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Does the hon. Member want to press it to a division? "

SRI H. M. JAGANNATHAM :—" Yes, Sir."

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The resolution was put and declared lost. A poll was demanded and the House divided as follows:—

Ayes.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 K. Uppi Sahib Bahadur. | 6 Mrs. M. Hensman. |
| 2 K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur. | 7 Mrs. M. N. Chubwalla. |
| 3 Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar. | 8 Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao. |
| 4 Sri B. Narayanaswami Nayudu. | 9 Mr. K. O. Anthoni. |
| 5 Sri M. D. T. Kumaraswami Mudaliyar. | 10 Sir James Doak. |
| | 11 Dr. V. K. John. |
| | 12 Sri H. M. Jagannatham. |

Noes.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. Rajan. | 9 Sri N. Venkatachalamaji. |
| 2 The Hon. Sri K. Madhava Menon. | 10 „ C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar. |
| 3 Sri K. Venkataswami Nayudu. | 11 „ A. Govindacharyulu. |
| 4 „ B. Bheema Rao. | 12 „ A. K. A. Ramachandra Reddiyar. |
| 5 „ L. Subbarama Reddi. | |
| 6 „ S. K. Satagopa Mudaliar. | 13 „ S. Jayaram Reddiyar. |
| 7 „ M. Narayana Menon. | 14 „ N. Renga Reddi. |
| 8 „ M. Narayana Rao. | |

Ayes 12; Noes 14.

The resolution was lost.

(3) REFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT BILLS TO JOINT SELECT COMMITTEES.

MR. PRESIDENT:—“ Sri P. R. K. Sarma is not in his place. The hon. Member's resolution is deemed to have been withdrawn.”

(4) REVISED SCALES OF SALARIES FOR NON-GAZETTED SERVICES IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

MR. PRESIDENT:—“ Mr. K. O. Anthoni does not intend to move his resolution? ”

MR. K. O. ANTHONI:—“ Yes, Sir.”

(5) DECISION OF HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TO TRANSFER POWER TO INDIAN HANDS.

* DR. V. K. JOHN:—“ Sir, I am thankful to you and the Members of the House for giving me this opportunity at this late hour, and I shall not take up more than five minutes. I move—

'This Council recommends to the Government to convey to the Secretary of State for India that this Council heartily welcomes the decision of His Majesty's Government in Britain to transfer power to Indian hands by a date not later than June 1948.'

Sir, I consider it a privilege to move this resolution. As far as I know, no legislative chamber has considered this momentous declaration of His Majesty's Government. This House is considering it first. Three effective causes have contributed to this declaration. One is the sufferings undergone and the sacrifices made by the great political party, the Congress. They have not only sacrificed their comforts and conveniences; they have also sacrificed very much in property and even in life in the struggle for the freedom of the country under the leadership of the modern apostle of truth, non-violence and love—Mahatma Gandhi. The